

and her crew, James Kelly, Andrew Thomas, Wendy Lawrence, Charles Camarda, Stephen Robinson, and Soichi Noguchi are piloting the safest, most sophisticated, and most reliable spacecraft ever built.

This successful lift off, NASA's 114th shuttle mission, is a tremendous event. It is important that we remember the dangerous nature of space flight and exploration. As President Ronald Reagan said after the loss of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*, "We've grown used to the idea of space, and perhaps we forget that we've only just begun."

This week, we congratulate the scientists and technicians who are upholding the great traditions of America's space program. We recognize the spirit and courage of the space shuttle's crew. We thank the countless number of East Texans that helped in the search for evidence and answers in the wake of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* tragedy. And finally, we honor the memory of those brave men and women who have gone before in the name of exploration and in the quest for discovery.

HONORING KEVIN BRAGG ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions Kevin Bragg has made while interning in my Washington, DC, office. Kevin has been a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

But Kevin must return to Murfreesboro, the hometown we share. This fall, Kevin will begin his senior year at the University of Tennessee, where he is a political science major and a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha honor society.

During his internship, Kevin won over the entire staff with his ever-present eagerness and genuine interest in public affairs. He has attended briefings, addressed constituent concerns and served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, providing visitors from Middle Tennessee with a personalized look at a national treasure.

I hope Kevin has enjoyed his internship as much as my staff and I have enjoyed his presence in the office. I wish him all the best in the future.

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the importance of the fifteenth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the ADA. This legislation has played a vital role in ensuring that all Americans are granted the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of society.

With the bipartisan support of this body and the Senate, President George H.W. Bush

signed the Americans with Disabilities Act as a mechanism to ensure that "every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through once closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom."

Thanks to the ADA, we have taken significant steps towards the achievement of that goal. The Act required educational facilities to become accessible to those in wheelchairs, opening the doors to learning and opportunity for thousands of Americans. It ensured the availability of transit, entertainment, and communications systems to the hearing-impaired and the blind, guaranteeing them an opportunity to participate in cultural events, media events, and public engagements.

The ADA has substantially moved this country forward in terms of our relationship with a group of Americans who had once been unfairly excluded for their physical abilities. We have taken important steps to increase the opportunities and lower the barriers to the equal and just treatment of all Americans. We have opened doors through the ADA for the full participation and contribution of individuals to our society.

Despite the efforts of the last decade and a half, we still have further to go. We still have more work to do to assist our citizens with disabilities. Today, approximately two-thirds of people with disabilities of working age are still unemployed. While many factors influence the high rate of unemployment for the disabled, a third of non-workers with disabilities reported their need for some type of accommodation as a major factor in their unemployment. An interesting aspect of this is their requests are minor accommodations—elevators, closer accessible parking, and special worksite features modifications that are not particularly expensive to make, especially with advance planning.

Likewise, proposed cuts in housing, assistance technology, training, and other assistance programs threaten to undo many of the advances we have made in the last 15 years to help those with disabilities.

Whether it is the costs involved or the unwillingness to reach out to this brave segment of our national workforce, people with disabilities are still discouraged from opening some doors of opportunity. They still need more assistance in their fight for justice.

I encourage the Members of this chamber, as well as citizens and employers across the country, to pursue reinvigorated efforts at ensuring that every man, woman, and child is afforded an opportunity to success. Let us find ways to help every citizen build a better life as we create the conditions for a better America.

THANK YOU, BONNIE RINALDI

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Bonnie Rinaldi. Bonnie recently retired from the position of Henderson's Assistant City Manager on July 14th, and will be sorely missed by all.

Bonnie's public service spanned almost 30 years, starting as an intern in North Las Vegas. Since her intern days, Bonnie served

in many aspects of city government, including assistant city manager for Clark County, before accepting the position of Assistant City Manager for Henderson in 1999.

I have known Bonnie for many years and consider her a good friend. I have also tremendously enjoyed working with her. Her intelligence and personality made her a strong and effective leader throughout Southern Nevada. Those who worked with Bonnie sometimes referred to her as "the little engine that could," skipping from meeting to meeting without missing a beat. Bonnie's life philosophy is that, with some determination and hard work, anything could be accomplished—a quality that will continue to take her far in life.

I wish Bonnie the best of luck in her retirement. It will be hard to imagine the City of Henderson without her.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER TATUM ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Christopher Tatum for his service during his internship this summer. Chris is a resident of Gallatin, Tennessee, and he has been a tremendous help to my constituents in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Chris is returning home to prepare for his junior year at the University of Mississippi. As he finishes his experience in Washington, he already is looking toward the next adventure—studying in Italy during the fall semester.

Chris's remarkable attitude and eagerness have served him well as he has experienced the many facets of Congress first-hand. He has been very helpful in answering constituent concerns, guiding visitors through the U.S. Capitol and assisting me and my staff with countless projects.

I hope Chris has enjoyed this learning experience as much as we have enjoyed having him in the office. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

THE STRUGGLES OF DAMU SMITH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention and consciousness of this body the important and significant battles of a courageous warrior for justice, peace, and equality, Mr. Damu Smith. Damu has been a constant and consistent champion of peace and continues his fight for love and justice despite his struggle with cancer. I applaud this simple man, this mighty activist, and this concerned citizen of the world for his tireless struggle to make the world a better place. I encourage him to continue his fight, knowing that others are aware of his struggle and continue to need his leadership.

A passionate believer in peace and global peace movements, Damu has fought to raise the awareness of the world community of the